**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

November 2, 1999

S. 1296

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on October 20, 1999*

CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase federal spending by less than $100,000 each year, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Because enacting S. 1296 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1296 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. State and local governments might incur some costs as a result of the bill's enactment, but these costs would be voluntary.

S. 1296 would designate about 66 miles of river segments in New Jersey and Pennsylvania as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It also would allow up to 30 miles of additional river segments to be designated as part of the system if there is adequate local support for the designation. S. 1296 specifies that the river segments be managed in accordance with the plan prepared by the river study task force and the National Park Service (NPS). The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to review any water resource projects (such as dams and water diversions) proposed for the river segments to consider the extent to which such projects are consistent with the management plan. (According to the NPS, however, no such proposals are currently under consideration.) The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide planning, financial, and technical assistance to local municipalities to assist in protecting the natural, economic, and historic resources of the river segments and to implement the management plan. Based on information from the NPS, CBO estimates that providing this assistance would cost less than $100,000 annually, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact is Victoria Heid Hall. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.